

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed February 24, 2006, Applicants provide the following. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to correct typographical errors, and claims 17-44 were previously cancelled. Therefore, sixteen (16) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 1-16. Reconsideration of claims 1-16 in view of the remarks below is respectfully requested.

By way of this amendment, Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Thomas F. Lebens, Attorney for Applicants at (805) 541-2800 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Information Disclosure Statement

1. Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references identified in the Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) filed between the filing date and October 6, 2005. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner further consider the references identified in the IDS filed on February 17, 2006 before the pending office action, and IDSs filed February 27, 2006, March 8, 2006 and March 9, 2006 with appropriate statements under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

Objection to the Claims

2. Claims 14 and 15 are objected to based on the term “decentered”. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to replace the term “decentered” with the term “de-centered” as recited in the specification, at least on page 11, lines 9-10 and 30, page 12, lines 4-8, page 14, lines 9-11 and page 24 line 2 through page 25 line 2. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

3. Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 13 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,886,962 (Suehiro). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as the Suehiro patent fails to expressly or inherently describe each and every element as set forth in the claims.

Specifically, the Suehiro patent fails to describe or suggest at least a reflective base as recited in claim 1. The office action equates elements “4c, 9, 19 and 104” of Suehiro to the claimed reflective base (office action, page 3, para. 4). Elements 4c, 9, 19 and 104 of Suehiro are not reflective bases, and further are not reflective bases that reflect a first real image as claimed. Instead, element “4c” is a small mirror in the surface mount light source (see FIGS. 2A-2C of Suehiro) and a “real image” is not directed to this mirror. Further, this small mirror 4c is not large enough to receive a “real image”. Still further, the Suehiro patent does not describe or suggest that the small mirror 4c receives a real image or reflects a real image. Therefore, the small mirror 4c cannot be equated to the reflective base as claimed.

Elements “9” and “19” are light shielding members and do not receive or reflect a real image, and instead these shielding members include slots 10 and 20 through which “all” of the light is directed. Specifically, the Suehiro patent states “all light emitted from the light source 2 and reflected by the reflecting surface 8a is condensed into the optical opening portion 10a [in the light shield 9] and then radiated out through the optical opening portion 10a” (Suehiro, col. 10, lines 8-11). Therefore, these shielding members do not reflect a real image, and instead all light is directed away from the light shields 9 and 19 and through openings 10 and 20 in the shields 9 and 19, respectively. Therefore, the shielding members 9 and 19 cannot be equated to the reflective base as claimed.

The element “104” is a “transparent glass plate” and does not reflect a real image as claimed. Instead, the transparent glass plate 104 passes any light that might impinge on the plate. Additionally, the Suehiro patent fails to suggest that a real image is directed to the transparent glass plate 104 or that the transparent glass plate 104 reflects a real image. Therefore, the transparent glass plate 104 cannot be equated to the reflective base as claimed.

Further as introduced above, the Suehiro patent directs all of the reflected light through slots 10 and 20. Thus, based on the shielding members 9 and 19 and the slots 10 and 20 in these members the Suehiro patent specifically teaches away from reflecting a real image as claimed.

Still further, the Suehiro patent does not describe creating a “first real image” of the source because the Suehiro patent requires long concave surfaces 8a and 8b forming “a cylindrical surface in which a part of an ellipse with the light source 2 and the optical opening portion 10a as its two focal points is extended in the lengthwise direction of the optical opening portion 10a” (col. 9, line 61 – col. 10, line 14). Additionally, these cylindrical surfaces longitudinally extend along X axis and therefore, create a ribbon of reflected light and not a “real image” of the source. Therefore, the Suehiro patent does not describe and instead teaches away from generating a real image and directing the real image to a reflective base.

As set forth at M.P.E.P. § 2131, a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. The Suehiro patent fails to expressly or inherently describe each and every element of at least independent claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Suehiro patent.

Claims 2-16 depend from claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-16 are also not anticipated by the Suehiro patent due at least to their dependency on claim 1.

Further regarding at least claim 2, the Suehiro patent fails to describe that a reimaging mirror is a quarter ellipsoid. Therefore, claim 2 is not anticipated by the Suehiro patent.

Regarding claim 3, the Suehiro patent does not expressly or inherently teach that a “second focus is further positioned below the reflective base” or that the second focus is “below the reflective base at a height below a surface of the reflective base equal to a height of a light emitting surface of the first light source from the surface” as recited in claim 3. The office action cites column 12, lines 10-45 of the Suehiro patent. However, this portion of the Suehiro patent does not teach or suggest at least a “second focus [that] is further positioned below the reflective

base” or the second focus being “below the reflective base at a height below a surface of the reflective base equal to a height of a light emitting surface of the first light source from the surface” as recited in claim 3. Instead, column 12, lines 10-45 only describe elongating focal points. Specifically, the Suehiro patent states “two focal points is extended in the lengthwise direction of the optical opening portion” for opening portions 20a-20d (Suehiro, col. 12, line 34-36). Therefore, the Suehiro patent does not expressly or inherently describe each and every element as recited in claim 3, and thus, claim 3 is not anticipated by the Suehiro patent.

Regarding claim 4, the Suehiro patent does not describe at least “reimaging reflector comprises a first sector of a first prolate ellipsoid and a second sector of a second prolate ellipsoid” as recited in claim 4. Instead, Suehiro only describes extending the surface, not providing a prolate ellipsoid. Therefore, claim 4 is also not anticipated by the Suehiro patent.

Regarding at least claims 9, 10 and 13, the Suehiro patent does not describe a lens as claimed. The office action equates element 11 of the Suehiro patent to the claimed “lens”. However, element 11 is an LED, and not a lens as claimed. Further, the LED 11 does not receive the real image as recited in claims 9, 10 and 13. Therefore, claims 9, 10 and 13 are not anticipated by the Suehiro patent.

4. Claims 1-3, 8-12 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,926,435 (Li). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as the Li patent fails to expressly or inherently describe each and every element as set forth in the claims.

The office action suggests that the Li patent describes a “reflective base” citing elements “2, 3, 5, 406, 410”. However, none of these elements are a reflective base. Specifically, element “2” is a substrate upon which the LED is mounted but is not a reflective, and the Li patent fails to describe or suggest that the substrate 2 reflects a real image. Elements 3 and 5 are electrical connection tracks and are also not reflective bases. The elements 406 and 410 are axes, not bases and further not reflective bases. Additionally, the Li patent fails to teach or suggest generating a real image adjacent a first light source, and instead reflects light

away from the light source to a remote point (see FIG. 8 for example). Therefore, the Li patent does not expressly or inherently describe each and every element of at least claim 1, and instead teaches away from claim 1.

Claims 2-3, 8-12 and 16 depend from claim 1. Thus, claims 2-3, 8-12 and 16 are not anticipated by the Li patent, due at least to their dependency on allowable claim 1.

Further regarding at least claim 2, the Li patent fails to expressly describe that a reimaging mirror that is a quarter ellipsoid. Therefore, claim 2 is not anticipated by the Li patent.

Regarding claim 3, the Li patent does not expressly or inherently teach a reflective base or that a "second focus is further positioned below the reflective base" or that the second focus is "below the reflective base at a height below a surface of the reflective base equal to a height of a light emitting surface of the first light source from the surface" as recited in claim 3. Therefore, claim 3 is also not anticipated by the Li patent.

Claim 8 recites in "a tailored free-form exit face positioned at least partially about the light source such that the percentage of light reflected by the reimaging reflector and light emitted from the source not reflected by the reimaging reflector is emitted from the exit face establishing an output illumination that meets a predefined prescription." The office action suggests that the Li patent teaches such a tailored free-form exit face, however, fails to provide any support or specify where in the Li patent such a tailored free-form exit face is described. Applicants respectfully submit that the Li patent does not teach the tailored free-form exit face as recited in claim 8, and thus, at least claim 8 is not anticipated by the Li patent.

In rejecting claims 9-12 the office action recites elements 1100, 1200, 1300 and 1400. The office action, however, also equates pieces of these elements as other elements of claim 1. Therefore, the office action is effectively reading claim limitations out of the claims. The Li patent does not describe a lens as recited in claims 9-12. Therefore, the Li patent does not anticipate claims 9-12.

5. Claims 1 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by published U.S. Patent Application publication No. 2004/0189933 (Sun et al.).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as the Sun reference fails to expressly or inherently describe each and every element as set forth in the claims.

For example, the “down-going light” as cited in the office action of paragraph 0073 of the Sun reference does not establish “a first real image of the first light source adjacent the first light source” as recited in claim 1. Therefore, the Sun reference does not describe each limitation of at least claim 1, and thus, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Sun references.

Claims 13-15 depend from claim 1, and thus, claims 13-15 are also not anticipated by the Sun reference due at least to their dependency on allowable claim 1.

Further, in rejecting claims 1 and 13-15 the office action refers to FIG. 12 of LPT's Sun patent application. The embodiment of FIG. 12, however, does not teach “establishing a first real image of the first light source adjacent the first light source” as claimed.

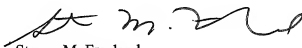
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the above amendments place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

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